McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

June 8, 2007

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'Great synergy' Team McChord

Rodeo commander praises competition preparation efforts

Capt. Suzanne Ovel 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 80 people convened in Hangar 4 this week as part of a planning think tank for the Rodeo 2007 competition to be held here July

Career-field experts and logistical planners from Air Mobility Command, the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and McChord participated in a three-day in-progress review to solidify plans for the international mobility competition and to brief the new Rodeo Commander, Brig. Gen. Kip Self, on these plans.

"This was an eye-opening experience. I mean that from the second of day one that I walked in, Team McChord was evident," said General Self, noting the total force contribution to coordinating the event. "There's a great synergy here, and in a team this size, it's essential."

In addition to solidifying the schedule of g Rodeo week, the planning team made real § progress, said Lt. Col. Chris Duffek, AMC Rodeo 5

We fine-tuned the in-processing procedures ₹ to check in the more than 3,000 competitors and staff for the competition; we finalized change two to the operation order which will go out to the competitors next week; and we prepared our way ahead for the Rodeo briefing to [AMC Commander] Gen. Duncan McNabb on June 18," Colonel Duffek said.

With more than a year and a half of Rodeo planning already accomplished, the Rodeo team is well-prepared to host the teams and observers from nearly 30 countries.

"Really all we have to do is polish a few areas,



Brig. Gen. Kip Self, commander of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center, speaks to members of the Rodeo 2007 planning staff during a briefing in Hangar 4, Monday.

just tie up a couple of loose ends and we'll be ready to go, which is a nice place to be. We've been planning this event since October 2005, and it's time to execute," Colonel Duffek said.

That sense of accomplishment is echoed by the McChord Rodeo staff.

"The McChord Rodeo planning staff has done an outstanding job preparing and planning for this AMC Rodeo 2007, and we are excited to execute over the next few weeks and determine who is the best of the best," said Lt. Col. Bryan Huntsman, McChord Rodeo director.

Base officials help Airmen make 'Right Decision'

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Orr 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Enlisted Airmen here within 12 to 15 months of their separation dates got a chance to learn about the benefits associated with continued military service Tuesday at the base theater.

During the monthly intimate fourhour "Right Decision" briefing, base career counselor Master Sgt. Lorenzo Jones, 62nd Mission Squadron, let Airmen who are exploring separation know about their entitlements with respect to career counseling, health care, education and become a productive civilian when you have been familiar to them because finance — some of the reasons Airmen decide to get out of the military.

Taking a no-pressure approach, Sergeant Jones and his team of speakers from various on-base agencies such as the Airman & Family Readiness Center and education center addressed these issues.

This is not pressure from senior leadership to get you to reenlist," Sergeant Jones said at the briefing. "I'm laying all the information ... the good, the bad and the ugly at your feet. It's your decision whether or not to reenlist. You were a civilian before you came in, and hopefully you will

get out.'

Though in the past, Airmen may have felt coerced into re-uping, Jones' no-pressure approach was refreshing to Airmen like Staff Sgt. Alison Rudicel, 62nd Operations Support Squadron.

"I'm a first-term Airman who wanted more information for myself and my subordinates," she said. "The briefing was very informative and well done. Sergeant Jones wasn't trying to sway your decision. He just threw the facts out there."

Most of the information Airmen learned during the briefing should

their subordinates an annual briefing on their military entitlements, Sergeant Jones said.

"First-line supervisors are the single biggest influence on an Airman's career path," he said. "If your supervisor is great, you can't wait to reenlist. The issue is always one of trust. If a person trusts his supervisor to intervene on his behalf, we experience higher rates of

For more information on Air Force career paths, call Sergeant Jones at 982-3395.

Weekend Weather

Hi: 70





Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	7,348
Total flying hours	25,796.9
Cargo moved (tons)	
Departure reliability rate	94.6%
Mission capable rate	84.3%
Personnel currently deployed	
Reservists currently activated	N/A
(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)	

Don't miss it ... 62nd OG change of command

The 62nd Operations Group will have a change of command ceremony at 3:30 p.m. June 15 in Hangar 1. For more information, call Capt. Sang Kim at 982-3858.

The uniform makes the role model

Col. Jerry Martinez 62nd Airlift Wing commander

This week, in addition to hosting our Rodeo in-progress review committee, McChord also opened its gates to 29 cadets from the Air Force Academy as part of Operation Air Force. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, Operation Air Force allows cadets from the Academy and various ROTC programs to spend three weeks at a base where they have the opportunity to become familiar with everyday tasks and activities of active-duty officers and enlisted Airmen and the Air Force way of life.

For the next three weeks, these cadets will shadow company grade officers and senior noncommissioned officers. In addition to observing first-hand what type of work our Airmen do, they will learn a lot about the perceptions and expectations of today's Airmen. I'm sure you all know they won't be watching just the Airman they're shadowing, but also the Airmen they meet throughout their time here, and their perceptions will be shaped by every Airman they encounter.

For those of us who wear the uniform

every day, the cadets' scrutiny is nothing new. As our Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley has said repeatedly, every Airman is an ambassador and every Airman is responsible for telling the Air Force story.

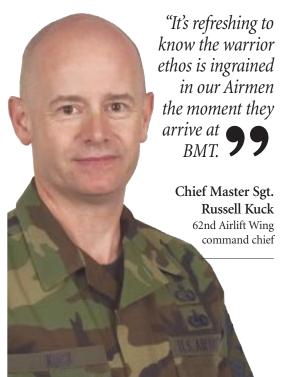
Each time we leave the base in uniform, whether to eat lunch, run a quick errand or attend a community event as a wing representative, the actions and comments we make define people's perceptions of the United States Air Force. This constant scrutiny is part of our job.

The American people have entrusted us with their freedom and way of life. Protecting their rights and security is a responsibility we all take very seriously. There is no other job in the world like military service. It's an honor to wear our country's uniform and serve in the world's best Air Force. I know you share the pride I have in serving our country. Take the time to make sure your actions in and out of uniform reflect that pride. I hope you all make the most of this opportunity to share our proud tradition with some of the Air Force's future officers while the cadets are here.

And to our visiting cadets, welcome to McChord. Enjoy your time here, you will learn a lot from this incredible group of pro-



Going back to basics: Today's trainees tomorrow's Airmen



Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck 62nd Airlift Wing command chief master sergeant

I just returned from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where all the command chief master sergeants from Air Mobility Command gathered for our semi-annual confer-

While there, we were able to visit with the newest Airmen at basic military training.

It's always good to go back to your roots. Seeing all the trainees marching around opened the flood gates of memories for me ... Things I will never forget like my old dormitory, the "motivational talks" my training instructor routinely gave my flight and how I always kept my wall locker in immaculate condition, or so I thought.

When I remember what it was like for me to be a basic trainee 28 years ago, and when I look at what it's like to be a trainee now, I'm truly amazed.

Though some things are the same — Airmen still receive "motivational" talks from their TI's and learn the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do — nowadays they don't

spend so much time doing some of the more labor intensive things we did, such as meticulously folding our brown T-shirts. Instead, today's trainees get to roll up their shirts and spend more time learning to master weapons familiarization (i.e. handling, carrying, cleaning and firing their M-16s). The benefit so far has been an increase in marksmanship proficiency of more than 20 percent.

When I attended "Warrior Week" I had a chance to see trainees learning hand-to-hand combat and setting up security measures for defensive fighting positions.

During my trip, I also learned that trainees will now come into the Air Force already fit-to-fight. They are going to start doing fitness testing at the beginning of BMT. If trainees don't pass, they will end up in a remedial fitness flight. After two weeks, if they still don't meet Air Force standards, they will be processed for separation. The fitness culture is truly embraced at BMT.

Today's trainees are tomorrow's warrior Airmen — the future of the Air Force. It's refreshing to know the warrior ethos is ingrained in our Airmen the moment they arrive at BMT.

If you're ever in San Antonio I encourage you to visit BMT, and I'm confident you will walk away with a sense of "Hooah!"

Mentorship of Airmen: Always a supervisor's responsibility

By Lt. Col. Steve Dimatteo 10th Airlift Squadron commander

The professional and personal aspects of mentorship are perhaps the most critical duties of Air Force supervisors in these days of conflict. We cannot afford for the constant mobilization requisite to fight and win the Global War on Terror to drive us to neglect the necessities of our number one asset: our people! As retired Gen. Ronald Fogelman once said, "We all bear the responsibility to develop our subordinates and to help groom the next generation of Air Force leaders. Mentoring can help refine the capabilities of tomorrow's Air Force leaders. It can open up communications within our service, break down barriers and create cultural change."

Air Force mentorship was enhanced to bring about General Fogelman's vision of a cultural change in the way we view professional development. Ultimately, the goal is to develop well-rounded, professional and competent future leaders. To achieve this aim, Air Force mentorship covers a wide range of areas: career guidance, professional development, Air Force history and heritage and knowledge of air and space power.

Furthermore, Air Force Policy Directive 36-34 points out that, at a minimum, mentoring will consist of feedback that discusses performance, future potential and professional development plans. To narrow it down even more, areas of focus should include promotion, professional military education, advanced degree work, physical fitness, personal goals, professional qualities, as well as thoughts concerning future assignments.

However, these subjects are merely the foundations of mentoring and will only achieve the baseline of results for your troops. By including subordinates in decision making processes, granting more responsibility with increasingly difficult projects and encouraging involvement in professional or community organizations, a good mentor can help his or her people achieve goals often loftier than they had previously set for themselves. Mentoring our Air Force professionals is the linchpin that ensures a continually evolving team of strong talent is always here — honing skills, perfecting knowledge and ensuring the defense of this nation and our way

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AFSC eligibility for RIF updated

WASHINGTON — New vulnerability charts for force shaping have been released on the Air Force Personnel Center Force Shaping Web site, removing eight officer career fields from the reduction in force.

Based on current Air Force projections for operational stress and strong voluntary separation rates, officers with the following Air Force specialty codes have been removed from consideration by the June RIF board: 11R, 12R, 13B, 14N, 21R, 31P, 64P and 71S.

Officers with approved Voluntary Separation Pay packages may not request withdrawal of their separation date except in cases of "severe personal hardship or selection for promotion," according to the force shaping Web site.

Final vulnerability charts were posted on the AFPC Web site Thursday.

For more information, contact the local military personnel flight or visit the AFPC Force Shaping Web site at http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/forceshape/.

Do you have a story idea?

Spread the news in The Northwest Airlifter! E-mail us at northwestairlifter@mcchord.af.mil

Professionals

of the week

62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Staff Sgt. Andrea Watts

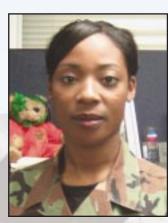
Duty title:

Unit deployment manager

Duty section:

Readiness

Hometown: Jacksonville, N.C.



Reason for recognition:

Sergeant Watts deserves to be recognized for her outstanding commitment to excellence during this air expeditionary force seven rotational period. During this time, as a UDM-in-training, she was the 62nd Airlift Wing point of contact for a high-level government accountability office visit; maintained a 98 percent error-free deployment discrepancy rate; volunteered her personal time in the community; and was completely engaged in her education through Pierce College, completing four credit hours this semester. She has done all of this despite 50 percent manning in a very difficult and high-responsibility job, while performing as a single mom during her husband's remote deployment to South Korea.

Senior Airman Bradley Zink

Duty title:

Fuels distribution craftsman

Duty section:

Fuels flight

Hometown: Rock Falls, Ill..



Reason for recognition:

A fuels go-to guy, Airman Zink is a leader among many serving as a fuels trainer and regularly stepping up to lead projects and tasks. He is a member of the *Bring it on Times* staff, the monthly squadron newsletter. He is a rising star who consistently demonstrates his mettle. During a fuels relocation exercise, he led the evacuation of 23 fuels personnel, 14 aircraft-servicing vehicles and three groundfuel units from the fuels complex during a bomb threat. He devised a task evaluation matrix, a tool to measure the flight's Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Program preparedness, to track proficiency checks for more than 65 fuels person-

McChord's Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



ALI AIR BASE, Iraq — Airmen deployed to the 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron from McChord's 62nd Services Squadron and the 1st Special Operations Services Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., pose for a group shot in front of the 407th ESVS building recently.



BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Capt. Rick Garza, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, shakes hands with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at Baghdad International Airport recently.



62nd SFS team takes aim for Rodeo 2007

Capt. Suzanne Ovel 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Editors note: This is the first in a four part series of articles highlighting McChord's Rodeo 2007 competi-

They pound pavement six days a week, often decked out in helmets, body armor and weapons. Sweat, pain and endless training — that's life as they'll know it for the next five weeks.

Security Forces 62nd Squadron's three-person team began this routine May 2, the first day they could start training for Air Mobility Command's Rodeo 2007 competition in July. The international air mobility competition, a combination of air and ground competitive events, brings together the very best mobility Airmen every few years to compete in strenu-

"Rodeo is an extreme scenario of g what could happen," said Staff Sgt. Jake Plemons, 62nd SFS Rodeo team captain.

Sergeant Plemons, along with teammates Staff Sgts. Robert Connelly and Clay Greenwell, is preparing to excel in the three security forces competitions of combat tactics, a combat challenge course and combat weapons.

To help them prepare, Master Sgt. David Newhardt, a four-time Rodeo veteran, is coaching the team. In addition to running, Sergeant Newhardt has the team swim, practice self-aid and buddy care and receive additional weapons practice on the M4 assault rifle and the M9 pistol.

"I'll try to go over the most extreme circumstances, so they'll be prepared physically and mentally," Sergeant Newhardt said.

The team's real-life experience will undoubtedly aide them also. All three staff sergeants have deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi



Staff Sgt. Jake Plemons, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, fires a M9 pistol at Fort Lewis' firing range Monday. Sergeant Plemons is part of the three-person 62nd SFS team competing in Rodeo 2007.

Freedom. They sharpened their team unity when they flew together recently on a 13-day Phoenix Raven mission to provide security for C-17 Globemaster IIIs at airfields in locations such as Australia, the Philippines and Guam.

Although they average about five to eight years in the Air Force each, two of the team members already have experience competing in past Rodeos. Sergeant Connelly was an alternate in Rodeo 2005 and Sergeant Plemons was a part of the 2005 62nd SFS team, which placed first in the combat tactics competition.

Both plan on using that experience to their advantage this year. For Sergeant Connelly, that means pushing through the tedium and pain of all that running.

"I know there's a purpose for it and an outcome," he said.

Training and uniting as a team are the lessons Sergeant Plemons will

bring to the competition.

"Not to over-train and plateau too soon and to pretty much rely on teammates — you're only as fast as your slowest person," he said.

The secret, then, to placing first is increasing everyone's strengths, and this team plans on winning, Sergeant Newhardt said.

"First place is what it's all about second place is nothing," said the

New identity-theft scam targets spouses of deployed members

WASHINGTON — The American Red Cross is warning military spouses about a new identity-theft scam that targets family members of deployed

The Red Cross was alerted of the scam earlier this month, said Devorah Goldburg of the Red Cross.

The scam involves a person calling a military spouse, identifying herself as a representative of the Red Cross, and telling the spouse that her husband was hurt in Iraq and was medically evacuated to ed to be prudent and alert people, Germany. The caller then says that doctors can't start treatment until paperwork is completed and that to start the paperwork they need the

spouse to verify her husband's social security number and date of

It is hard to determine how many spouses have been targeted by this scam, Ms. Goldburg said, as there are many ways for spouses to report problems like this. However, one confirmed report was enough for the Red Cross to act, she said.

"We know that it happened to one person; it was probably going to happen to others, and we wantshe said.

American Red Cross representatives typically do not contact military members or dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant, according to a Red Cross news release. Military family members are urged not to give out any personal information over the phone if contacted by unknown individuals, including confirmation that their spouse is

In addition, Red Cross representatives contact military members or dependents directly only in response to an emergency message initiated by a family member, the news release said. The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members; the Defense Department will contact families directly about family members' injuries.

It is a federal crime, punishable by up to five years in prison, for a person to fraudulently pretend to be a member of, or an agent for, the American Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting, collecting or receiving money or material, according to the news release. Any military family member who receives such a call is urged to report it to his or her local family readiness group or military personnel flight.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service.)

Recent exercise yields positive feedback for McChord's Airmen

By **Tyler Hemstreet** Staff writer

During a recent hotwash here base officials said they were pleased with Team McChord's performance during its recent major accident response exercise at Clover Park Technical College in May.

They were most pleased with the positive communication at the scene between Lakewood fire fighters and police officers and McChord's emergency responders, said Senior Master Sgt. James Byrnes, 62nd AW Plans and Programs.

"That was the important part — to make sure

we were working as a cohesive unit," said Maj. Anthony Calabrese, 62nd Airlift Wing Plans and Programs. "That's why we're trying to establish those connections, so it's not foreign if something like an aircraft accident were to happen."

The seamless transition of control of the simulated accident scene between participating agencies was another high point of the exercise, Sergeant Byrnes said.

Base officials were also pleased with their ability to test the various decision-making capabilities between the organizations and the fact that they were able to effectively iron out communication issues, Sergeant Byrnes said.

"We got a good feeling for some of the things they do, and I'm sure they got a good feeling for some of the things we do," he said.

Though communication is the area McChord's emergency responders excelled in, it was also identified as one of the areas in which we can improve.

'We feel you can always improve on communication," Major Calabrese said.

There is also a desire to incorporate more outside agencies into the exercise and get more agency involvement from other cities, Major Calabrese said. But participation from other cities requires them tasking their agencies beyond their normal tasking limit, which means paying over-

That is something base officials are trying to work around in planning the next MARE.

62nd CS' meteorological and navigation section

Paring the mary for safe landings



In a region known for overcast skies and incessant rain showers, the chances are good C-17 Globemaster III pilots don't land at McChord very often on sight alone because dense fog, heavy rain, sleet, strong winds and occasional snowfall can reduce visibility, forcing them to depend on their navigation instruments.

The 62nd Communications Squadron's meteorological and navigation section maintains all of the equipment that makes it possible for each aircraft to land safely in bad weather.

The section monitors and maintains eight instrument shelters, seven of which are on the flightline. Each piece of navigation equipment inside the shelters emits a radio wave that helps give the incoming aircraft's navigation system an accurate approach path.

Periodic maintenance checks are all part of keeping the shelters up and running, said Staff Sgt. Jessica Wilhelm, 62nd CS.

Each instrument location is housed in a climate-controlled atmosphere, but sometimes nature can cause chaos.

"Birds can land on them and spiders can build webs around them," Sergeant Wilhelm said

Though seemingly insignificant, the small disturbances could cause issues with the signal she said.

The section is also constantly checking to see that other outside disturbances or power outages haven't caused the instruments to drift

outside their parameters, she said.

A signal operating outside its parameters could have tragic repercussions.

"The signals have to be accurate because there is very little margin of error," said Tech. Sgt. William Dixon, 62nd CS.

If an aircraft comes in off the center line due to an instrument malfunction, it could miss the runway and possibly crash, he said.

In addition to paving the way for pilots to have an accurate path to the runway, the section also makes communication possible between all parties involved in the mission and services the equipment that delivers accurate weather information. The section maintains the radios and weather equipment at the command post, base weather and base operations in Bldg. 1172 and the radios in the control tower that each use to communicate with incoming aircraft. The weather equipment at various locations around the flightline collects data and sends it to a central terminal, Sergeant Dixon said.

Using the weather data, base officials are able to determine if the runway provides the safest conditions for landing when it comes to headwinds or tailwinds, Sergeant Wilhelm

The section's responsibilities even reach to other locations, as they maintain the weather systems at Fort Lewis and an automated weather observation station in Yakima.

When it comes to landing airplanes at McChord, no matter the conditions, if the meteorological and navigational section's equipment is fully operational, pilots have a clear path to the runway and Airmen can continue to accomplish their global airlift mission.



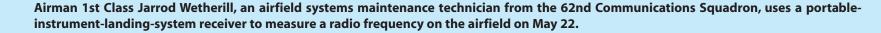
Airfield systems maintenance technician Senior Airman Nicholas Higbee, 62nd CS, performs corrosion control on an antenna situated atop the Glideslope Tower.



Airman Higbee adjusts his harness before he and Staff Sgt. Jessica Wilhelm, 62nd CS, perform corrosion control on an antenna.



Airmen Wetherill and Higbee calibrate a circuit-card assembly using a digital multi-meter.



MXS soccer team eyes repeat



Alexander Rojas, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, dribbles past 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron defender Shane Lawrence during an intramural soccer game at Rainier Field, Monday.

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The 62nd Maintenance Squadron soccer team got one final tune-up for the playoffs and a run at a repeat championship, defeating the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron 5-2 Monday night at Rainier Field.

Less than a week removed from being handed its first loss of the season, MXS (10-1) looked like a team on a mission against rival AMXS (4-6).

Just six minutes into the game, forward Mario Gomez-Navarro found Alexander Rojas on a break, who then drilled a shot into the top corner of the goal from 15 yards out.

But MXS' stellar front line was just getting warmed up.

A mere seven minutes later, Rojas returned the favor to Gomez-Navarro, finding him with a pass on another break. The crafty forward easily pushed the ball into the left corner of the goal, giving MXS a 2-0 lead.

Meanwhile, the veteran back line of Tommy Mahurin, Henry Gonzalez and Matthew Sanchez held the AMXS offense to just two shots on goal in the first half.

A goal by halfback John Masterman with just under five minutes left in the half gave MXS a commanding 3-0 lead at the break.

AMXS did manage to score seven minutes into the second half, getting a goal from Jonathan Schnieber to cut the deficit to two, but MXS answered with goals from Frank Cazares and Rojas, both set up by some pristine passing.

"We've all played similar street-

style soccer, and we've all basically got the same skills," Cazares said. "We all think the same, and we always look for the holes in the defense. The other person [on the receiving end] just knows where to be."

MXS' flowing offense and pinpoint passing was born from a mix of team chemistry, experience and overall skill. Several members of the team play on club teams offbase and nearly all the starters played soccer in high school.

"The front line just communicates very well — everyone does," said Gonzalez, who is also the team's coach. "We try to focus on keeping the ball on the ground and not dribbling a lot."

After falling into the loser's bracket last year in the playoffs and having to beat the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron's team twice to win the championship, MXS is looking to make things a little easier on itself this year. But it will likely have to go through the 4th and 728th Airlift Squadron's team, who ended MXS' shot at a third consecutive league championship crown on May 31 with a 6-3 win.

Fourth and 728th AS also finished the regular season 10-1.

"They gave us a hard run," Gonzalez said. "But we got everyone back, and it's going to be a different game next time. Our defense is going to be totally different. We'll see what happens."

Rojas is confident MXS can repeat as champs.

"We want this — everyone knows what they have to do," he said. "I don't think there is a team that can beat us now. That next game with the 4th and 728th AS is going to be a good one to watch."

The intramural championship game is set for June 15.

McChord makes Special Olympics remarkable

Nearly 400 Airmen volunteer to make event memorable

Ву

Airman 1st Class Kirsten Wicker 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 3,000 Special Olympics athletes, their coaches, friends and families came together for the opening ceremony on May 31 in Hangar 2 and the Victory Dance and Happenings in McChord's Hangars 1 and 2 Saturday.

For participants, such as Kevin Anderson, the events were an opportunity to end the spring competitive season on a high note by taking a break from competition, hanging out with friends and family and playing games.

"[McChord's Airmen] do an excellent job and put on a really good show for the kids," said Kevin's mother Eilene.

Airmen worked hard to make the opening ceremony, Victory Dance and Happenings successful by giving their time and energy to help out wherever they were needed, said project officer Capt. Alexander Macdonald, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron.

"McChord's volunteers made it all happen," said Captain

Team Everett Explosion blasts the ball away from the Mountain Flamingoes during a recent Special Olympics Washington Summer Games event at Fort Lewis. The bulk of the athletic events took place at Fort Lewis facilities, while McChord hosted the games' opening ceremony, Victory Dance and Happenings.

Macdonald. "We had nearly 400 people volunteer."

They helped set up the hangars, man the game stations and passed out food and beverages, he said.

Captain Macdonald said there were so many volunteers that

much of the work preparing for and cleaning up after the events was done in half the time anticipated.

However, McChord's Airmen did more than just set up chairs and hand out water bottles, they also encouraged the athletes.

"They are very positive for the athletes. They walk up to them and say, 'Good job, you guys did great!'," said Sandy Doyle, whose daughter Rachel competed in track and field events.

Quality care for McChord kids

Program provides children nurturing, secure upbringing

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Air Force spouse Tammy Acker wanted a job that combined two of her favorite activities, working with children and taking care of her own children.

And she found exactly what she was looking for working as a licensed child care provider with the Family Child Care Program run by the 62nd Services Squadron here.

The program offers military spouses and retirees who live on or off base the chance to run an independently owned and operated business providing care for children, said acting Family Child Care coordinator Sheila Hayes, 62nd Services Squadron.

Family Child Care providers also get access to the program's free lending library where they can check out everything from toys and playpens to first aid kits, Ms. Hayes said.

To become providers, people must complete the required training

offered by the 62nd SVS, obtain the required insurance coverage, have their houses pass inspections from several agencies and pass background checks before they can be a part of the program, Ms. Hayes said.

The program currently has nine providers who care for 60 children, with each caring for no more than six children at a time, she said.

Anyone who has access to McChord can send his or her child to a provider in the program.

And since almost half of the current providers participate in a subsidy program, parents pay the same rates that they would at the child development center, Ms. Hayes said.

Because the providers are familiar with the military lifestyle, some even offer child care during swing shift hours and on the weekends for children of Reservists, she said.

Mrs. Acker has been a provider for nearly two years and she said the comfort level between the parents and providers is one of the things that makes the program so successful.

"The child care children are just like family to me," she said.

In addition to all of the providers being highly trained, another reason the program works well is because the providers are part of the base community and receive



Licensed child care provider Tammy Acker plays with the children she cares for each day at her on-base home. Mrs. Acker, who's been a provider for the Family Child Care Program for nearly two years, transformed her family room into a playroom for the children.

monthly check-ups, she said.

"They work hard to stay on top of keeping their houses clean and keeping the correct developmentally appropriate equipment around," Ms. Hayes said.

The support providers give each other also helps build strong bonds between the group, streng-thening the entire program, Mrs. Acker said.



Steam plant shutdown

McChord's central steam plant will be shut down Saturday and Sunday. The plant's shutdown will start at 12:01 a.m. Saturday and end at 6 p.m. Sunday. The following facilities served with steam heat, steamheated domestic hot water and process steam will be affected: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 22, 100, 160, 166, 180, 181, 301, 304, 308, 315, 341, 423, 546, 565, 566, 567, 572, 574, 702, 707, 708, 710, 717, 726, 729, 735, 737, 738, 742, 745, 746, 757, 774, 778, 1119, 1120, 1122, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1155, 1156, 1160, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1169, 1170, 1174, 1175, 1178, 1179, 1183, 1405, 1419, and 1422. Hot water should be available for most of the day on Saturday. Additionally, limited shower facilities will be available at the base swimming pool from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. The annual shutdown is necessary to perform maintenance on plant equipment and distribution systems. For more information, call John Keizer at 982-2583.

Enlisted Spouses' Club

The base's Enlisted Spouses' Club will meet

from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the chapel support center. Nonmembers are welcome to attend, and childcare will be available for those who need it. For more information, call Michelle Jost at 861-1439.

Parent advisory board meeting

The base parent advisory will meet 11:45 a.m. Wednesday at Habañeros Mexican Grill. The purpose of the meeting is to recruit parents to become representatives, attend meetings and fill key committee positions such as president, vice president and secretary. For more information, call Aimee Prunier at 982-5776.

62nd OG change of command

The 62nd Operations Group will have a change of command ceremony at 3:30 p.m. June 15 in Hangar 1. For more information, call Capt. Sang Kim at 982-3858.

The Department of Labor

Career fair

in partnership with Recruit-Military and the American Legion will host a career fair for veterans and personnel who are transitioning from active, Reserve and Guard duty from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade

Center, June 21. For more information or to register, visit http://www.recruitmilitary.

Vacation Bible school

Vacation Bible school will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 26 to 29 at the base chapel support center for children ages 4 to 12. For more information or to register, call the chapel support center at 982-5556.

Red Cross summer program

There will be an orientation for the American Red Cross' summer youth program from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 27 at Madigan Army Medical Center. For more information, call McChord's American Red Cross center at 982-0341 or youth coordinator Trixie Stewart at 968-1055.

Leave donation request

The base civilian personnel flight has received requests to solicit annual leave donations for John Branski, Jill Miller and Anita Barnes. To donate leave, complete Office of Management Personnel Form 630A and submit it to MSS/DPCG, ATTN: Michele Ehlert. For more information, call the civilian personnel office at 982-

Faith and Worship Programs

For more information,

The following chapel program takes place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted:

Adult Bible study is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Catholic Services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two. Daily Mass Tuesday - Friday 11:30 a.m. Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass

11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

chapel support center

11 a.m. Traditional worship: Chapel one

Friday: 6 p.m. Fort Lewis chapel every 1st, 3rd and 5th at the corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 966-8949

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy



call the chapel support center at 982-5556.

5 p.m. Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship: Chapel one 9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages at the

11 a.m. Contemporary service: Chapel support center

Jewish Services:

Schedule of worship services

Orthodox Activities:

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis Sundays: 8:45 a.m. pre-Communion prayers

Confession is by appointment only. Call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843 or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil.